

In the claims

The following is an amendment to and complete listing of the claims that replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A heald frame $[(2)]$ for a weaving machine $[(M)]$, said frame comprising two posts ~~$(4, 4')$~~ and two cross $[-]$ members ~~$(6, 6')$~~ , each of said cross members of which is being equipped with a heald $[-]$ carrying bar $[(8)]$, ~~while there are provided~~ connector means for fixing connecting at least one post relative to at least one corresponding cross $[-]$ member, the fixing connector means ~~comprising a protrusion (4_1) from the post (4) , which protrusion (4_1) is suitable for being received at least partly in a recess (V) formed in the cross member (6) , and also means $(18, 20)$ for the mutual retention of the post and the cross member, wherein said fixing means further comprise an intermediate including a tubular fixing element (14) accommodated in an indentation (12) seated within a housing indented within a front face of formed in the at least one cross $[-]$ member $[(6)]$, the tubular element $[(14)]$ defining an internal volume (V) which forms said recess for receiving at least part of said~~ in which a protrusion (4_1) , while there are provided means for the mutual connection of the tubular fixing element (14) and the cross member (6) from the at least one post is received, securing

means for securing the tubular fixing element within the housing of the at least one cross member, and retention means for retaining the protrusion within the internal volume of the tubular fixing element.

2.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the securing means for ~~connecting~~ securing the tubular fixing element ~~[[(14)]]~~ and the at least one cross ~~[[-]]~~ member ~~(6) are~~ means for fixing by includes an adhesive bonding.

3.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular fixing element ~~[[(14)]]~~ is made of a high strength material selected from a group of materials consisting of steel, ~~especially~~ stainless steel, ~~or of a~~ and light metal alloys, ~~especially~~ including aluminium.

4.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~indentation (12)~~ housing opens at the ~~two~~ opposite front faces ~~[[(6₂)]]~~ of the at least one cross ~~[[-]]~~ member ~~[[(6)]]~~.

5.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 4, wherein the tubular fixing element ~~[[(4)]]~~ has a ~~[[front]]~~ thickness dimension (E) that is greater than ~~the front~~ a thickness dimension (e) of the at least one cross ~~[[-]]~~ member.

6.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~indentation (12)~~ housing does not open at ~~[[the]]~~ side walls ~~(6₃, 6₁)~~ of the at least one cross ~~[-]~~ member ~~[[6]]~~, ~~thereby to form~~ such that the at least one cross member includes two lateral end tabs ~~(6₄, 6₁)~~ ~~of the cross member~~, bordering ~~said recess (12)~~ the housing.

7.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular fixing element (14) has side walls ~~(14₂₁, 14₂₂)~~ that delimit an access opening ~~(14₃)~~ ~~allowing access to said internal~~ the volume ~~(V)~~ forming the recess for receiving in which the protrusion ~~[[4₁]]~~ is received.

8.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tubular fixing element ~~[[14]]~~ is closed by a base ~~[[14₁]]~~ provided ~~on the a side~~ opposite ~~[[said]]~~ the access opening ~~[[14₃]]~~.

9.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the side walls ~~(14₂₁, 14₂₂)~~ form a rectangle when viewed in transverse section.

10.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claims ~~[[2]]~~ 6, wherein the tubular fixing element ~~[[14]]~~ is adhesively bonded

to the lateral end tabs ~~(6₄, 6₄¹)~~ in the region of the short sides ~~(14₂₂)~~ of its side walls.

11.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tubular fixing element ~~(14)~~ ~~comprises~~ includes at least one extension ~~(15, 15¹)~~ connected by the adhesive ~~bonding~~ to facing walls of the at least one cross ~~[[-]]~~ member.

12.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 11, wherein the ~~or each~~ at least one extension ~~(15, 15¹)~~ extends from ~~[[the]]~~ an intersection between a long side ~~[[(14₂₁)]]~~ and a short side ~~[[(14₂₂)]]~~ of ~~[[the]]~~ side walls of the tubular fixing element ~~[[(14)]]~~.

13.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein the a retention means ~~comprise~~ includes a screw ~~[[(18)]]~~ which is mounted in one ~~[[(6₄)]]~~ of the lateral end tabs, the screw ~~(18)~~ ~~being suitable for~~ cooperating with a nut ~~(20)~~ ~~accommodated in the intermediate~~ mounted within the tubular fixing element ~~[[(14)]]~~, the screw applying a bearing force on the protrusion ~~[[(4₁)]]~~.

14.(currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 13, ~~wherein there are provided means for the mutual indexation of the~~

~~protrusion (4₁) and of the cross member (6), especially a resilient plate (16) which extends partly into the internal volume (V) and has a bent limb (16₂) suitable for cooperating with a notched portion (4₄) formed in said protrusion (4₁) including indexing means mounted within the tubular fixing element for engaging the protrusion as the protrusion is inserted into the volume of the tubular fixing element.~~

15. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ~~indexation means (16) have a section (16₃) for laterally holding the nut (20) engaging means includes a resilient plate (16) which~~ that extends ~~partly~~ partially into the internal volume ~~[(V)]~~ and that has a bent limb ~~(16₂) suitable for cooperating with~~ portion that is engageable within a notched portion ~~(4₄) formed in said~~ of the protrusion ~~[(4₁)]~~.

16. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]] the protrusion (4₁) has, in the region of one (4₅) of its side walls,~~ includes at least one flat bearing surface ~~[(4₆)]~~ for bearing on an opposing face of the tubular fixing element ~~(14), the or each~~ the at least one flat bearing surface ~~[(4₆)]~~ extending only over a portion of ~~[[the]]~~ a side wall ~~[(4₅)]~~ of the protrusion.

17. (canceled)

18. (new) The frame of claim 16 wherein the protrusion includes at least first and second flat bearing surfaces that are spaced from one another by a convex surface of the side wall such that any force on the protrusion is distributed to spaced areas of the opposing face of the tubular fixing element.

19. (new) A weaving machine, the weaving machine comprising at least one heald frame, the at least one heald frame including two posts and two cross members, each of the cross members supporting a heald carrying bar, connector means for securing at least one post relative to at least one corresponding cross member, the connector means including a tubular fixing element seated within a housing indented within a front face of the cross member, the tubular element defining an internal volume in which a protrusion from the at least one post is received, securing means for securing the tubular fixing element within the housing of the at least one cross member, and retention means for retaining the protrusion within the internal volume of the tubular fixing element.